

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 07801 190013Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 EPA-01 OES-07
INSE-00 IO-13 /085 W
-----191004Z 073153 /17

R 190015Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2222

INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 07801

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MX, PFOR

SUBJECT: WHERE HAS ALL THE RHETORIC GONE?

1. WHILE MEXICO AND THE US CONTINUE TO HAVE BASIC DIFFERENCES ON MANY ISSUES, IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY CLEAR FROM THE EMBASSY'S PERSPECTIVE THAT THE GOM HAS MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO ELIMINATE OFFENSIVE OR GRATUITOUS VERBAL ATTACKS ON THE US AND ON US POLICY. MEXICO'S LIVELY, NATIONALISTIC PRESS CONTINUES TO CRITICIZE CERTAIN US POLICY MOVES EDITORIALY AND TO GIVE BANNER HEADLINES TO US ACTIONS CONSIDERED ADVERSE TO MEXICAN INTERESTS. HOWEVER, GOM OFFICIALS HAVE NOT PICKED UP THE THEME OF CRITICISM, AND UNPLEASANT NEWS ABOUT US-MEXICAN RELATIONS QUIETLY AND QUICKLY DISAPPEARS FROM THE PRESS, IN SOME INSTANCES AS A RESULT OF "PERSUASION" FROM THE GOM. RECENTEXAMPLES INCLUDE: THE APRIL ACCIDENTAL DROWNING OF A MEXICAN ILLEGAL AND THE RESULTANT NEAR-CLASH BETWEEN ILLEGALS AND THE US BORDER PATROL; US REMOVAL FROM THE GSP LIST OF 67 MEXICAN PRODUCTS; AND THE "WASHINGTON POST" STORY OF MAY 11 THAT THE EPA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 07801 190013Z

CONSIDERED USING MEXICANS TO STUDY CARCINOGENIC FUNGICIDES. THE OFFICIAL TREATMENT (OR LACK OF TREATMENT) OF THESE POTENTIALLY PROVOCATIVE NEWS STORIES WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO WHAT EMBASSY HAD COME TO EXPECT FROM THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION. (WHEN NEWS BROKE LAST SUMMER OF AN INS EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO DEPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS TO THE CENTER OF MEXICO, THE PRESS AND SEVERAL

CABINET OFFICIALS HARSHLY CRITICIZED THE US OVER A TWO-WEEK PERIOD EVEN WHEN THEY KNEW THAT FACTS WERE CONTRADICTORY TO PUBLISHED REPORTS.)

2. WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT SEE ALL REPORTS ON GOM-USG RELATIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MEXICO IS SEEKING TO AVOID PUBLIC CONFRONTATION WITH THE US EVEN WHEN OUR TWO DELEGATIONS STAND APART ON SUBSTANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH MEXICAN P REPORTING AGREED THAT MEXICO'S STANCE IN THE CURRENT OAS FLAP OVER US PROPOSAL TO REDUCE ITS OAS QUOTA WAS THAT OF PEACEMAKER. THE MEXICAN PRESS STRESSED AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA'S CALL TO THE LATIN MEMBERS NOT TO ADOPT A RIGID POSITION WHICH WOULD FORCE THE US TO ABANDON THE OAS, THEREBY CAUSING THE ORGANIZATION TO COLLAPSE. MEXICAN REP'S CALL FOR REASON IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM ATTITUDES EXPRESSED A YEAR AGO WHEN THEN FOREIGN SECRETARY GARCIA ROBLES PUBLICLY DESCRIBED THE OAS AS AN "IMPOTENT AND ATROPHIED" ORGANIZATION WHICH IS JUST A TOOL OF "SLY ATTEMPTS AT HEGEMONY." MOST RECENTLY, GOM DECISION TO NAME CAREER AMBASSADOR ANTONIO GONZALEZ DE LEON, AN URBANE, NON-THIRD WORLDER, AS MEXICAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO GENEVA, SUGGESTS THAT THE GOM MAY BE PREPARED TO ADOPT A MORE COOPERATIVE POSTURE VIS-A-VIS THE US IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS.

3. EMBASSY REITERATES BELIEF THAT THIS MOST-WELCOMED REDUCTION OF RHETORIC DOES NOT MEAN MEXICO HAS DONE A 180 DEGREE TURN ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES WHERE DIFFERENCES, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 07801 190013Z

SOMETIMES SERIOUS, STILL EXIST WITH U. S. IT DOES INDICATE THAT THE GOM, REALIZING ITS ESSENTIAL NEED FOR AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH, IS SEEKING TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY IRRITANTS IN US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. THOMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO07801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770178-0437
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770539/aaaabhxh.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bcdccc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2451347
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHERE HAS ALL THE RHETORIC GONE?
TAGS: PFOR, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bcdccc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009